

withdrawn yourself from a woman who had no other pretensions, no other sentiments, but those of the most tender of mothers and of the most devoted of friends. It is impossible for me to conceive how you have not blushed to appear before my eyes as a tyrant wishing to assassinate me by torments. Just Heaven! are you the man whom I have held up as the model of virtue?

"I must confess, that, during the last five weeks of your abode in Paris, you have shewn yourself less dishonourable; you took care to restrain yourself: you obliged me to think that my esteem and my friendship had some weight in the scale of your happiness; but your return into the world, and the publicity which you there excited, have destroyed that moment of illusion.

"I know, not without astonishment, all that you have done for seven or eight years; but your profound and concealed dissimulation is at present known to me. I see that I have now no more to pretend to, and that our bonds are to be dissolved for ever. You applaud yourself for such conduct, without doubt; while I am left without consolation. My soul, as tender as it is unchangeable, will carry to the grave the sentiments which I have dictated to you. I pity, I compassionate, I pardon you, and I wish you the same portion of happiness and of glory as I experience of grief and regret.

"It is with infinite pain, that I restore at your feet the remembrances which I have from you. I cannot dissemble, that this step may wound your dignity, though it is far from my intention to wish such an outrage; but alas! your proceedings have compelled me to this duty. Recall to mind, that I have desired nothing for myself, nor thought of adding to my fortune, but to increase your enjoyments. Remember you are not *my* Sovereign; and that, to obtain the title of my benefactor, you must always preserve that of my friend. I am nothing, Monseigneur: I have always admitted that